

# **WSDOT Design-Build Project Delivery Guidance Statement**

**Title** – Independent Assurance (IA) for Design/Build projects

**Version** – 1

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**Relevant Section of WSDOT DB Guidebook** – 6.9 Construction Inspection

## Contents

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<b>Contents .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Guidance Statement .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Independent Assurance (IA): .....	3
<b>What are the Benefits?.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Benefit 1 .....	4
Benefit 2.....	4
Benefit 3.....	4
Information to Carry Out this Guidance Statement .....	4
<b>Summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Concurrence .....	4
Was the WSDOT DB Guidebook Updated with this information? .....	4

## **Introduction**

The primary responsibility for Independent Assurance (IA) for a Design-Build project rests with the Department rather than the Design-Builder. The roles, responsibilities, and activities relating to IA cover the full range of responsibilities found in a design-bid-build project; however these activities are performed by the Department. The department has the oversight role to insure that the Design Builder is following the requirements of the RFP, the Standard Specifications, and Washington State laws relating to Independent Assurance Inspection.

## **Guidance Statement**

**Independent Assurance (IA):** The IA activity is an independent verification performed by WSDOT and is an:

- Observation of initial qualification, annual re-qualification of sampling and testing procedures for QV testing staff.
- Monthly initially then moving to Quarterly review/audit observations of the qualifications of the Design/Builder's QA testing staff, with Non-conformance issues documented for Design/Builder—WSDOT resolution.
- Monthly initially then moving to Quarterly review/audit observations of verification records of the testing equipment used to perform WSDOT QV and Design/Builder's QA testing activities.
- Initially month by month then moving to Quarterly review/audit observations of the Design/Builder's QA tester training records.
- Practical guidance for specification interpretation and procedural technique for WSDOT QV oversight personnel.

This program will validate the:

- WSDOT QV oversight of the Design-Builder QA sampling and testing processes.
- WSDOT QV sampling and testing processes.
- QA/QV statistical abnormalities as identified by the SAM software in F & t analysis.

This work may include:

- Auditing QA/QV testing records
- Observing the Design/Builder's QA testing technicians.
- Taking independent split samples with the Design/ Builder on a random basis for verification of Design/Builder's QA testing procedures and equipment.
- Taking independent split samples with the WSDOT on a random basis for verification of WSDOT QV testing procedures and equipment.
- Act as a third party for analysis and recommend resolution of statistical abnormalities between Design/Builder's QA and WSDOT QV

## **What are the Benefits?**

### **Benefit 1**

Quality Systems compliance per AASHTO R-18 and FHWA requirements for acceptance.

### **Benefit 2**

Independent overview of the materials acceptance by the Design/Builder's QA staff.

### **Benefit 3**

The resolution of statistical questions arising from "different populations or different means."

## **Information to Carry Out this Guidance Statement**

1. References:
  - Project specific RFP
  - Project specific Quality Management Plan
  - The WSDOT Standard Specifications
  - The WSDOT Construction Manual, Chapter 9
  - The WSDOT Materials Manual
2. Practices:
  - AASHTO R-18
3. Contact Information:
  - Asst. State Construction Materials Engineer—Administration
  - Design/Build QV Oversight Engineer

## **Summary**

This statement provides guidance to the Independent Assurance Inspector(s) that will review design/build projects.

## **Concurrence**

*5/10/07*

## **Was the WSDOT DB Guidebook Updated with this information?**

*No*